

Lanesboro City Council
Monday, December 5, 2011
Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Rahn, Joe O'Connor, Tom Dybing, Ceil Allen and Keith Eide

Absent:

Visitors: Blake Coleman, Theresa Coleman, Keith Burmeister, Phil Dybing, Julie Charlebois, Mitchell Walbridge and Lisa Brainard

REGULAR MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rahn.

Eide made the motion to approve the agenda, with the additions of Robert Thompson in regards to Whittier Assessments, Cooperative Snow Removal Resolution and the removal of the PU report, second Dybing, motion carried.

The meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting November 7th, 2011 were approved with a motion by Dybing, second Eide, motion carried.

PERSONS WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

- A. Robert Thompson – Whittier Assessments:** Thompson noted that he had approached the Council in regards to the assessments and their fairness, but has not read anything in the minutes since he has come to the Council. He stated that he has two major questions 1) He noted that the Whittier properties and the Maple Drive properties were assessed differently for the storm water systems and that he did not receive any benefit from the storm water in front of his house and felt he shouldn't have been assessed, but wants to know how each project was assessed and 2) the project at Whittier was a lot higher price due to the water line that was put in, he noted that it feeds the Brooklyn area, so he was wondering why residents on Whittier Street are paying for a line that serves other areas in the city, noting that others should have been assessed for the water line. He would like a follow up to these two questions, it was noted to place this item on the next agenda.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- A. Park: November 28th - Rahn:** Rahn reported that the eaves troughs still need to be installed on the front of the building and some items that the Contractor should have completed for the Community Center project are not yet complete. He noted that the Park Board is donating the gym for the use of the Winter Carnival. It was noted that Earth Day is going to be put on in the Park by the Eagle Bluff crew and they have been given permission to put up a large tent again. He noted that the Park Board did a tour of the building and have noted some repairs that are needed, including the leaking water heater.
- B. P&Z: November 28th – Dybing:** Dybing reported that the downtown Historic signs were discussed noting that Bruce Gillifan applied for a permit, but noted he could put the signs up on the awning, but then would not be able to hang his other sign.
- C. Library: November 15th – Allen:** Allen reported that at this time there is nothing new to report.
- D. HPC: November 14th - Vickerman:** Vickerman reported that the design guidelines were worked on and that they reviewed Bruce Gillifan's building permit, noting that the awning signs were approved as long as the other sign was not put up, as that would be over the 9 square feet.

HOUSEKEEPING:

A. Paying of the Bills: O'Connor made a motion to pay bills as presented, second Allen, motion carried.

B. 2012 Liquor Licenses: Dybing made a motion to approve the liquor licenses as presented, second Eide, motion carried.

C. Assessments: Vickerman noted that there are some mowing and utility assessments that were presented at the last meeting, property owners were given this meeting to speak before the Council. Dybing made a motion to assess the properties the mowing and utility assessments, second Allen, motion carried.

D. 2012 Preliminary Budget and Levy: Vickerman noted that she provided the changes based on salary increases and other items such as insurance changes.

E. Office Closures for Holiday Season: Vickerman reported that the office would be closed at noon on the 23rd of December and the 30th of December and closed December 26th and January 2nd based on the policy. Allen made a motion to approve these closures, second Rahn, motion carried.

F. December 10th Carnival: Vickerman noted that he flyer in the packet was provided for information in regards to the carnival.

G. Audit Engagement Letter: O'Connor made a motion to approve the engagement letter, second Allen, motion carried. Vickerman was asked to seek an audit price for the Fire Relief Audit.

H. GASB 54: Vickerman asked to discuss this item at a later date, noting that the funds needed to be categorized based on this new accounting principle.

I. Animal Enforcement: Mayor Rahn noted that he has received complaints in regards to animals running loose and noted that he would like to see a notice in the paper and a step up in the animal enforcement.

J. Dam Bonding Agreement with DNR: O'Connor noted that he motion to approve the Grant agreement with the clarification to exhibit a in regards to who owns the dam and whose responsibility it is, second Dybing, motion carried.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Dybing made a motion to adjourn, second O'Connor, motion carried.

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING:

At this time Mayor Rahn called the public hearing to order:

He asked if anyone wished to speak in regards to the budget and levy.

Keith Burmeister spoke noting that he felt the Council needed to do some deep searching that the City levy keeps rising, but the School and County are decreasing. He noted the City needs to pull back soon. Dybing responded to Burmeister stating that rural property has made a significant change in the effect of those two entities taxes on City residents.

Burmeister noted that the City needs to watch what it is doing and look at ways to conserve.

Phil Dybing noted that he has just moved into Lanesboro and notes that he understands he needs to pay his fair share and has no problem doing so, however he noted that he only receives City water and he feels that some plowing for the platted road in front of his place is necessary and that he would like to see some paved roads to that area. He stated that he understands how difficult the Council member jobs are but he asks to see some development in his area completed and is asking to receive the benefits for the taxes paid.

Tom Dybing summarized the changes due to the state changing the Market Value Credit.

It was noted that the City did not increase its levy, that it stayed the same from 2011 to 2012.

Regular Meeting Continued:

O'Connor made a motion to open the regular meeting, second Eide, motion carried.

Housekeeping (cont.):

E. 2012 Budget and Levy: O'Connor made a motion to approve the 2012 proposed levy and budget, with the levy being \$435,306, with the general levy being \$246,813, second Dybing, motion carried.

K. Cooperative Snow Removal Resolution for State: O'Connor made a motion to approve the resolution, second Eide, motion carried.

Adjourn Public Hearing:

Eide made a motion to officially close the public hearing at 6:30pm, second O'Connor motion carried.

Adjourn Regular Meeting:

O'Connor made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting, second Allen, motion carried.

JOINT MEETING WITH PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CITY COUNCIL:

All members present including Public Utilities Members: Dennis Schuck and Gerald Evenson. Mayor Rahn had to leave the meeting at this time.

O'Connor made a motion to open the joint meeting, second Allen, motion carried.

Mike Bubany, Jerod Wagner and Dillon Dombrowski joined in the conversation. The group put all possible upcoming projects on the working Capital Improvement Projects working document such as a Well, Dam repair, Three Street Repair Projects, Smart Meters and Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Group discussed all projects including the possibility of a Water Treatment Plant. The group decided to put all projects on the table and once they received the Capital Improvement Plan they would work out which projects must be outlined and which projects can be moved back. Discussion occurred as to how to determine which projects needed to be slated for the next few years.

Adjourn Joint Meeting:

Dybing made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting, second Allen, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbie Vickerman
City Administrator/Clerk